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Applications Branch

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND COVER LETTER
SUBMITTING AMENDED PAGES OF APPLICATION**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Enclosed please find a partial English language translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report - Form PCT/IPEA/409 (hereinafter "Report"), which Report was submitted to the Examiner on February 1, 2002. Applicants note that this Report was drawn on pages of description 3 - 6 as originally filed, and amended pages of description 1, 2, and 2a and claims 1 - 6 as filed September 27, 2001, and includes as an Annex amended pages of description 1, 2, and 2a and claims 1 - 6 (in German). For the Examiner's convenience, an English translation of the Annex is submitted herewith, in which each sheet is identified on the bottom of the page as "MODIFIED SHEET."

Based upon the submission of the amended sheets of claims, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits of the application containing pages of description 3 - 6 as originally submitted and amended pages of description 1, 2, and 2a and claims 1 - 6 (in place of originally filed